

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

Collier, Steve

From: Hall, Wendell
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 5:25 PM
To: Collier, Steve
Subject: Fwd: Complaint_Deputy Brian Miller

Have this looked into.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "SLASSI, MOHAMMED AD-00 USA AFSOC USAFSOS/SOED-L"
Date: 01/05/2015 4:04 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Hall, Wendell"
Cc: "Watson, Chris"
Subject: Complaint_Deputy Brian Miller

Dear Sheriff,

Allow me to first introduce myself. My name is Mohammed Slassi and I am a Department of Army civilian serving currently as the AFSOC Liaison Officer and Director of language program. I have been blessed to live in this great country since 2000 first as a student, then as a citizen who is proudly serving and supporting our military and participating in the war against terrorism. I also take pride in living in Santa Rosa County, which I consider one of the most peaceful areas to live in and that is thanks, largely, to our men and women of law enforcement who signed up to protect us and defend our constitutional rights.

On Saturday 03, 2015, I called 911 after my wife displayed erratic behavior and showed signs of endangerment of our 9-month old daughter, however that call turned out to be a nightmare and the worst day in my 15 years of living the American Dream.

Deputy Miller responded to the call with another officer and right out of his patrol car showed hostile behavior towards me and did not allow me to explain the situation. He cut me often and made fun of my English and my humble knowledge in the legal arena. I felt that the days I lived in a 3rd world country, called Morocco, are back. In such countries, law enforcement officers tend to abuse power and intimidate people, unlike here where our rights and freedoms are protected and responsibly exercised, and that is the reason I decided to live and defend our nation, and fight for the values instilled in us by our founding fathers.

Deputy Miller automatically sided with my wife without allowing me to talk, nor did he take a moment to interview my children who witnessed the abuse. The latters were terrified of him when they came out. Now I understand that most law enforcement would "side" on permissive basis with women and I am fine with that. However, I should not be treated as a 2nd degree citizen because my name is Mohammed and I am a male. I found myself coerced to withdraw my stance and apologize several times to Deputy Miller as I was afraid that he has a preconceived idea about me. During the conversation, he continued to threaten me by asking me to step back and keep my hands down. I had a very reasonable distance between me and Officer Miller (same distance I had with the other female officer) and was using minimal gestures with my hands as a paralanguage to explain my emotions. Deputy Miller, nonetheless, kept his hand on his revolver like he was dealing with a criminal (I was wearing shorts and a t-shirt) and visibly has nothing threatening on me except my wallet and my ID. I was in fear of my life worrying that Deputy Miller would pull the trigger, kill me and create a story. Those stories are, unfortunately, the norms in countries where oppression reigns supreme, and where law enforcement officers are actors of such repression. Should Officer Miller hold grudge against somebody named Mohammed, he has the right to do so, but he can't act upon that. We are free in this country to have our own opinions (sometimes tainted with prejudice) as long as we respect others and we exercise them within the framework of the law, which Deputy Miller signed up to uphold and protect.

I had to ask the other female officer if I have done anything wrong to warrant Deputy Miller's behavior and his hostile actions vis-à-vis me and she stated that I have not done anything wrong. In one instance, Deputy Miller made fun of me because I stated that I have custody of my other two children (Isabelle and William, not Sarah whom the call concerned) and he mimicked me and made fun of me reminding me that he too has custody of his kids, a fact that I respected but I was not allowed to talk and explain why I brought them into the conversation.

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

I understand that Mr. Miller sided with my wife and took her to the station and offered victim advocate in attempt to tarnish me and get me (as she told me afterwards), but what I don't understand is why Mr. Miller treated me as a 2nd class citizen, displayed hostile behavior, coerced me, and made me feel like I live in a country where law enforcement is synonymous to power and oppression. Certainly I don't and I am confident that you would not allow such behavior and actions to happen under your leadership. I still want to live in Santa Rosa County and support my fellow Airmen and raise my kids but I don't want to live in fear that Deputy Miller is "out there to get me and my children."

I hope that his actions are a single/stand-alone act that doesn't represent your honorable establishment especially in today's national debate about law enforcement and excessive use of force.

For the foregoing reasons, I am calling for an apology by Mr. Miller and that I get protected from his potential abuse and I can only count on your understanding and leadership.

Sincerely,

Mike
Mohammed Slassi, MBA, Ed.S, PhD Candidate
LTD Director/Liaison Officer
DLIFLC-CE-FS-SCR
Hurlburt Field Language Training Detachment
Air Force Special Operations Command/LC
COMM: 850-884-2634
DSN: 579-2634
BB: 850-687-7174
NIPR: mohammed.slassi@us.af.mil
Webmail: mohammed.slassi.civ@mail.mil
Army: mohammed.slassi@us.army.mil
LEN: mohammed.slassi@dliflc.edu